

## Health cooperation beyond aid: How the MMI Network has been discussing the relevance, legitimacy and effectiveness of (health) development cooperation

Thomas Schwarz, MMI Network  
ECTMH Pre-event, 16 October 2017

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internationalnetwork  
*health for all*

- Medicus Mundi International:  
From strengthening national health systems as problem of our partners to critically assessing the particular role of international cooperation.
- MMI Strategy 2016-20:  
“We will promote knowledge sharing and mutual learning between actors in international health cooperation.”
- 2016: MMI Working group on Effective Health Cooperation





- 2016: “Health Cooperation:  
Its relevance, legitimacy and  
effectiveness as a contribution  
to achieving universal access  
to health”
- October 2016: Berlin  
May 2017: Geneva  
October 2017: Antwerp
- Initial focus: Promoting critical  
self-assessment and institutional  
learning





## MMI discussion paper, October 2016

Health Cooperation: Its relevance, legitimacy and effectiveness as a contribution to achieving universal access to health.

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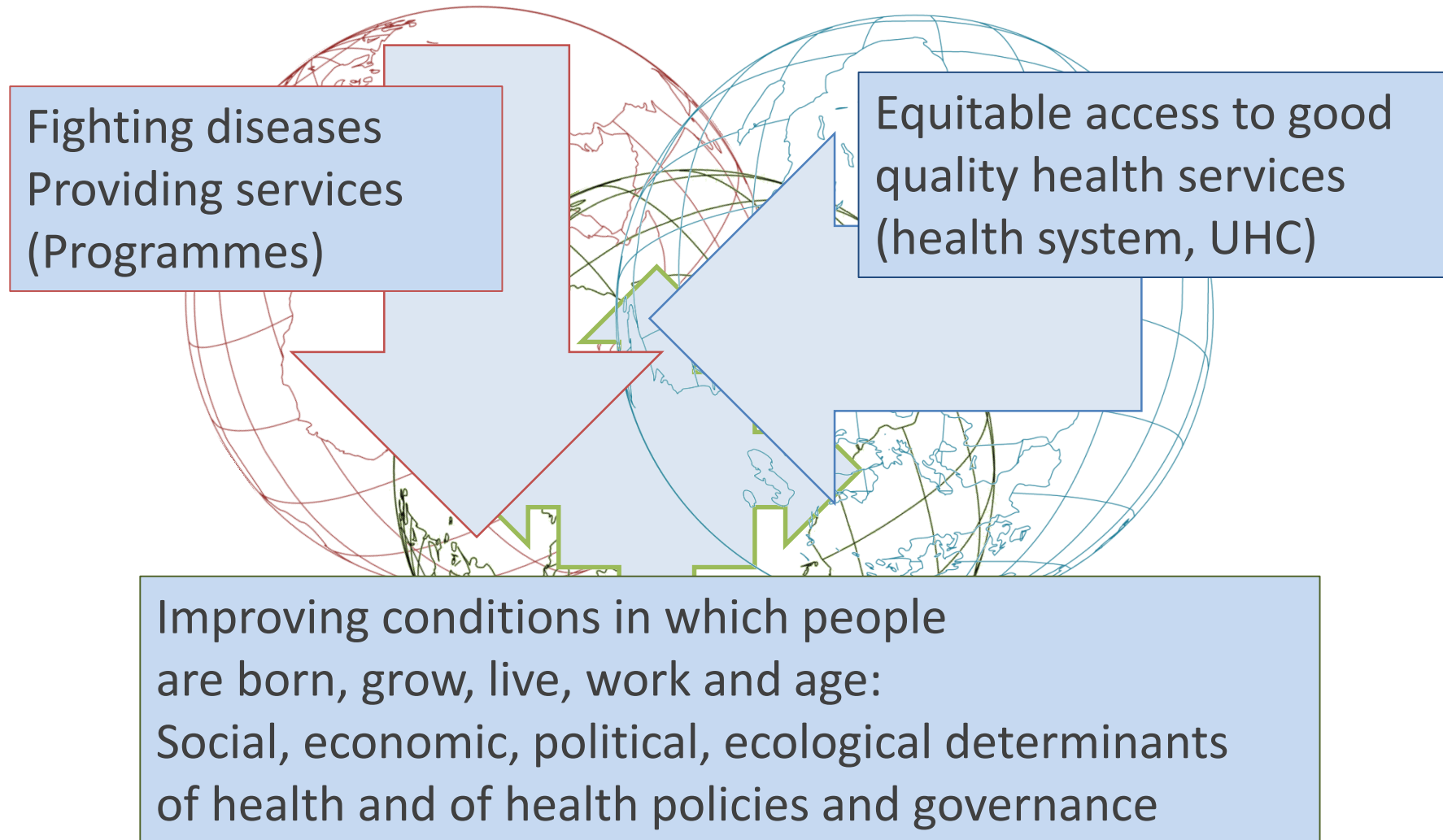
## Relevant, legitimate and effective health cooperation

- contributes to achieving universal access to health;
- is fully aware of its structural role, responsibilities and limitations; and
- continuously reflects on how to improve its approaches and practices.

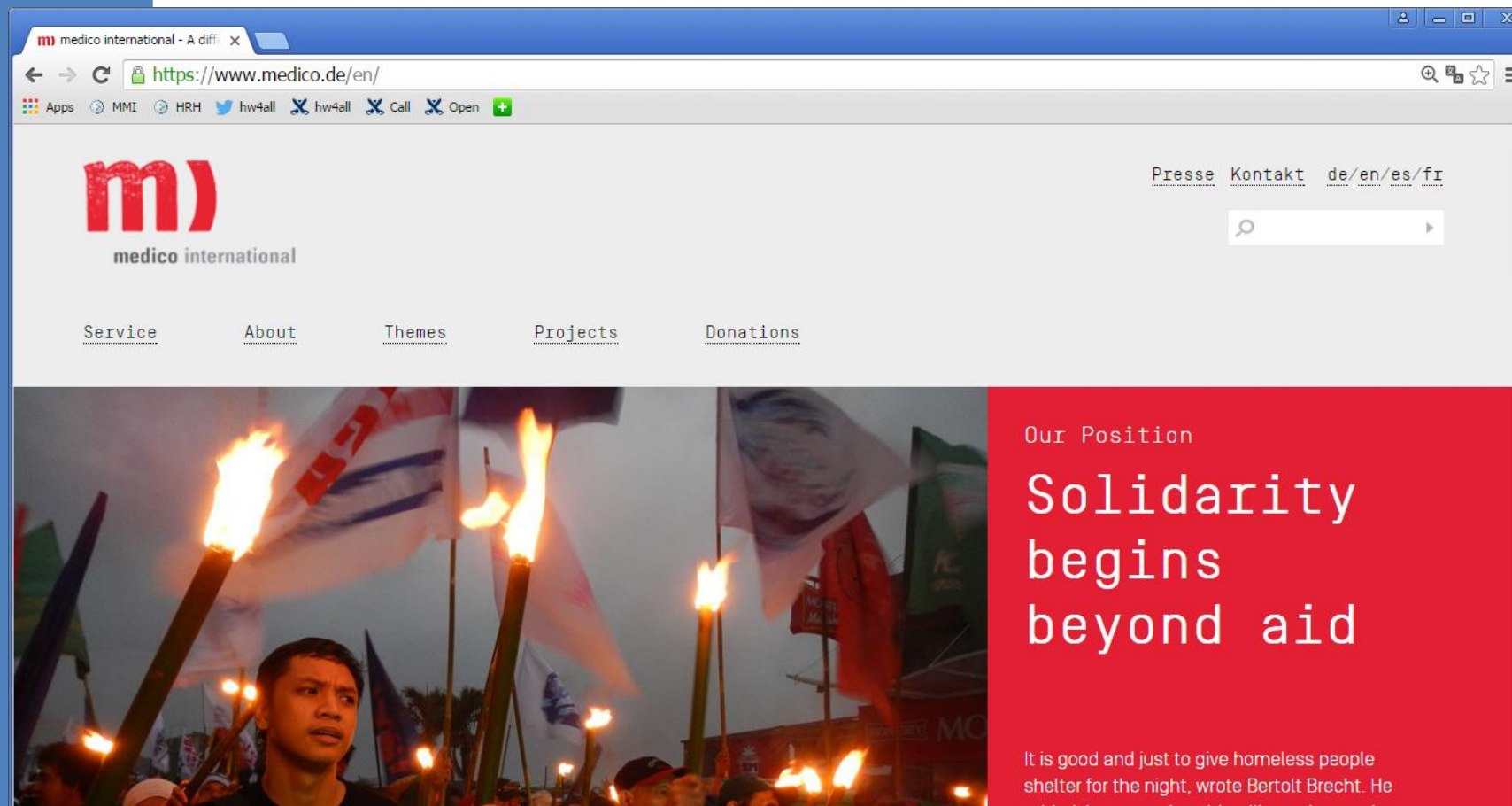


# 1. The policy space: Universal access to health

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The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying the URL: <https://theconversation.com/ebola-and-zika-epidemics-are-driven-by-pathologies-of-society-not-just-a-virus-54191?platform=hootsuite>. The browser's address bar also shows several extensions: Apps, MMI, HRH, hw4all, hw4all, Call, Open, and a green plus icon. The website's header features the logo "THE CONVERSATION" with the tagline "Academic rigour, journalistic flair". A search bar on the right contains the text "Search analysis, research, academics...". Below the header, a navigation bar lists various topics: Arts + Culture, Business + Economy, Education, Environment + Energy, Health + Medicine (highlighted with a red underline), Politics + Society, and Science + Technology. The main content area displays the article title "Ebola and Zika epidemics are driven by pathologies of society, not just a virus" in a large, bold font. Below the title, the date and time "March 30, 2016 3:52pm BST" are shown. A large image of three people in blue protective suits and face shields is positioned below the text. On the right side of the page, the author's name "David Sanders" is listed, followed by his title "Emeritus Professor, School of Public Health, University of the Western Cape". Below this, a "Disclosure statement" section indicates that "David Sanders receives funding".

THE CONVERSATION  
Academic rigour, journalistic flair

Search analysis, research, academics...

Arts + Culture Business + Economy Education Environment + Energy **Health + Medicine** Politics + Society Science + Technology

## Ebola and Zika epidemics are driven by pathologies of society, not just a virus

March 30, 2016 3:52pm BST



**Author**

**David Sanders**  
Emeritus Professor, School of Public Health, University of the Western Cape

**Disclosure statement**

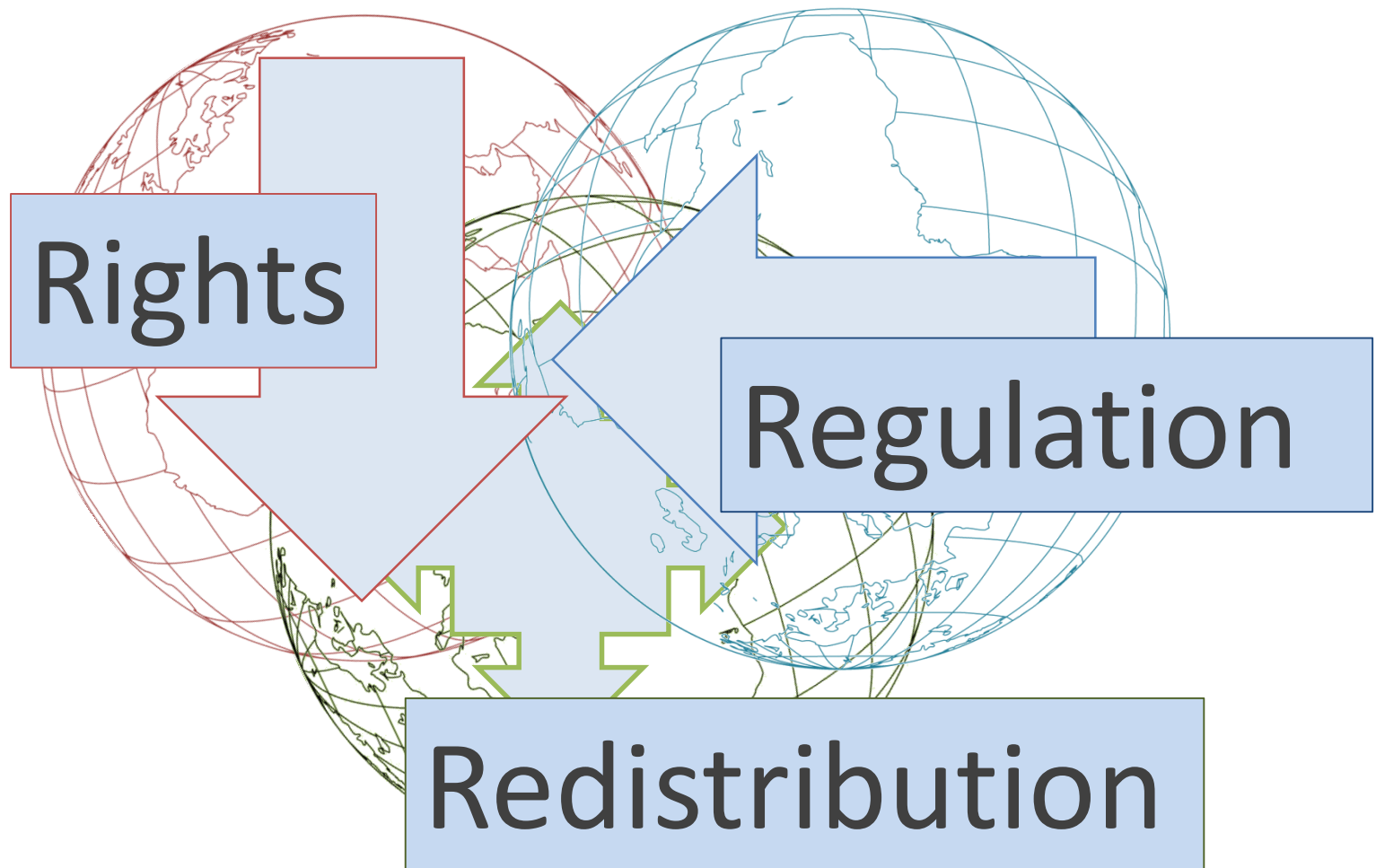
David Sanders receives funding



# 1. The policy space: Universal access to health

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## Question for reflection

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Do you have a “theory of change”  
which defines

- how you expect health outcomes to be improved?
- your organization’s particular role and contribution?



## 2. Anything wrong with development cooperation?



## 2. Anything wrong with development cooperation?





## 2. Anything wrong with development cooperation?



**BTC** BELGIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY


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[SECTORS](#) ▼

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[PROJECTS](#)

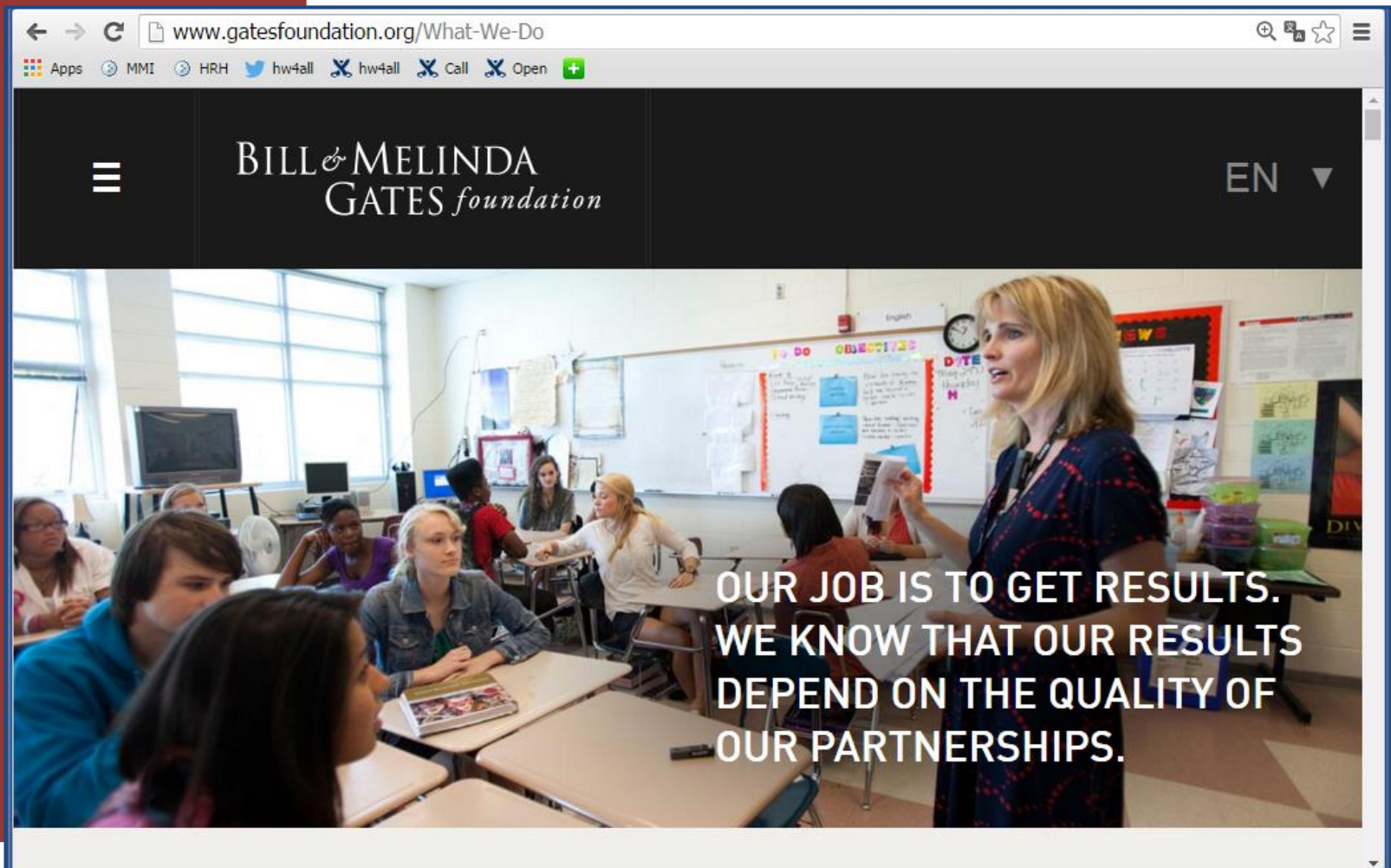
[STORIES](#)



**FOR A WORLD WHERE MEN AND WOMEN  
LIVE UNDER THE RULE OF LAW,  
HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICES,  
AND ARE FREE TO PURSUE THEIR ASPIRATIONS.**



## 2. Anything wrong with development cooperation?



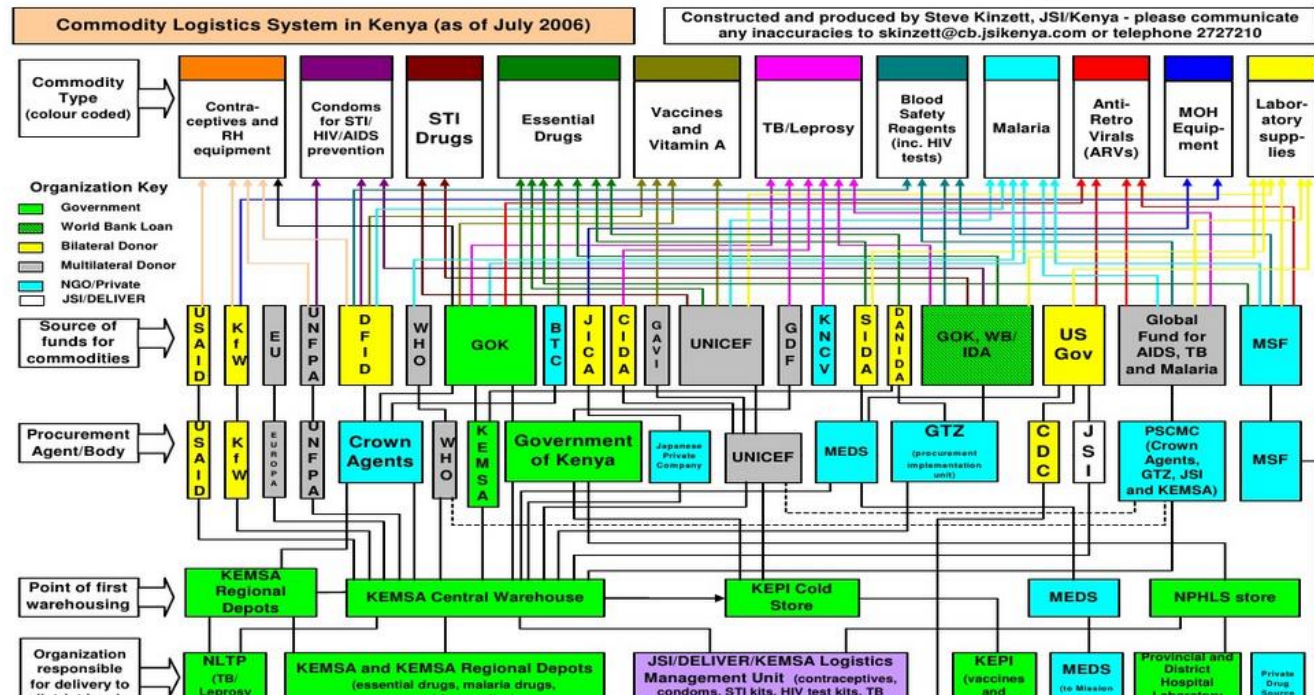
The screenshot shows the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation website. The browser address bar displays [www.gatesfoundation.org/What-We-Do](http://www.gatesfoundation.org/What-We-Do). The website header includes the foundation's name and a language selector set to "EN". The main content area features a video of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a dark blue patterned dress, standing in a classroom and addressing a group of students seated at desks. The classroom has large windows, a whiteboard, and various educational posters on the wall. Overlaid on the bottom right of the video is the text: "OUR JOB IS TO GET RESULTS. WE KNOW THAT OUR RESULTS DEPEND ON THE QUALITY OF OUR PARTNERSHIPS."

## 2. Anything wrong with development cooperation?



**DFID** Department for  
International  
Development

### Public Drug Supply Chain: Kenya



## 2. Anything wrong with development cooperation?

Trailer "A luta Continua" (english subtitles)



Vollbildmodus beenden

▶ ⏮ 🔊 0:26 / 1:40

⌵ ⚙ ⛶



## 2. Anything wrong with development cooperation?



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the ODI (Overseas Development Institute) website. The address bar shows the URL: [www.odi.org/publications/9956-ebola-response-west-africa-exposing-politics-culture-international-aid](http://www.odi.org/publications/9956-ebola-response-west-africa-exposing-politics-culture-international-aid). The ODI logo and tagline "Shaping policy for development" are visible at the top. The navigation menu includes links for Home, About ODI, Publications, Events, Programmes, Experts, Fellowship Scheme, Comment, and Media hub. The main content area features the title "The Ebola response in West Africa: exposing the politics and culture of international aid" by Marc DuBois and Caitlin Wake, with Scarlett Sturridge and Christina Bennett. The text describes the Ebola response in West Africa, noting that while aid organizations were dedicated and resourceful, they were also ill-prepared and insufficiently engaged with local communities. A sidebar on the right offers sharing options (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Email), print, and translation. Below this, it lists related content: "What Ebola tells us about aid" (Public event, 16 Oct 2015) and "Localising humanitarianism: improving effectiveness through inclusive action" (Briefing papers, 09 Jul 2015). A cookie notice at the bottom states: "We use cookies on this site to enhance your user experience" with a "Yes, I agree" button.

The Ebola response in West Africa: exposing the politics and culture of international aid

Working and discussion papers | October 2015 | Marc DuBois and Caitlin Wake, with Scarlett Sturridge and Christina Bennett

Though often described as unprecedented, the Ebola response reflects long-standing strengths and weaknesses with how aid works. Aid organisations proved dedicated and resourceful but also ill-prepared and insufficiently engaged with local communities.

Although well-used to danger, aid organisations struggled to overcome their fear of the virus and determine how to protect their staff in such an uncertain environment.

Share

Print

Translate

Related content

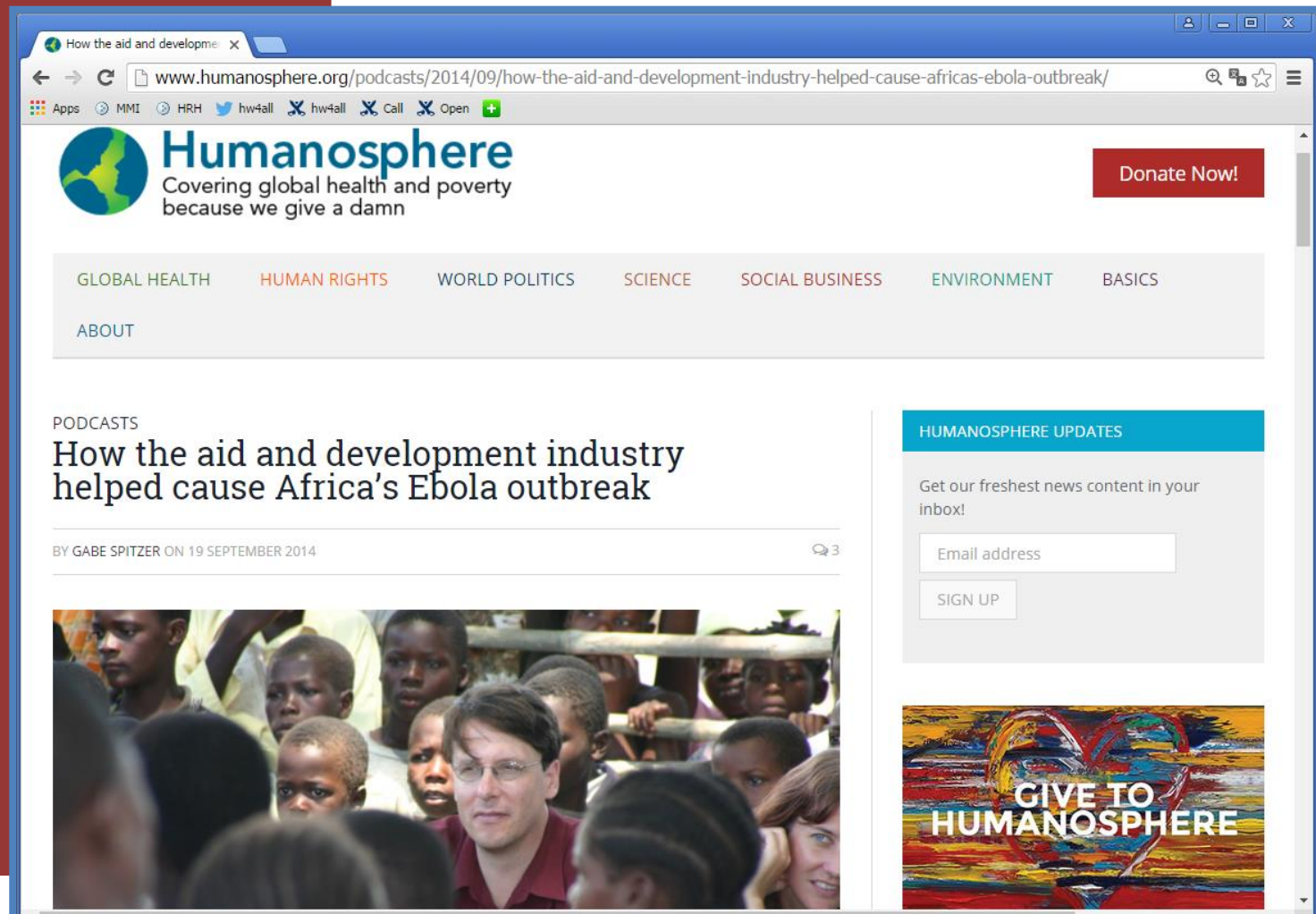
What Ebola tells us about aid  
Public event  
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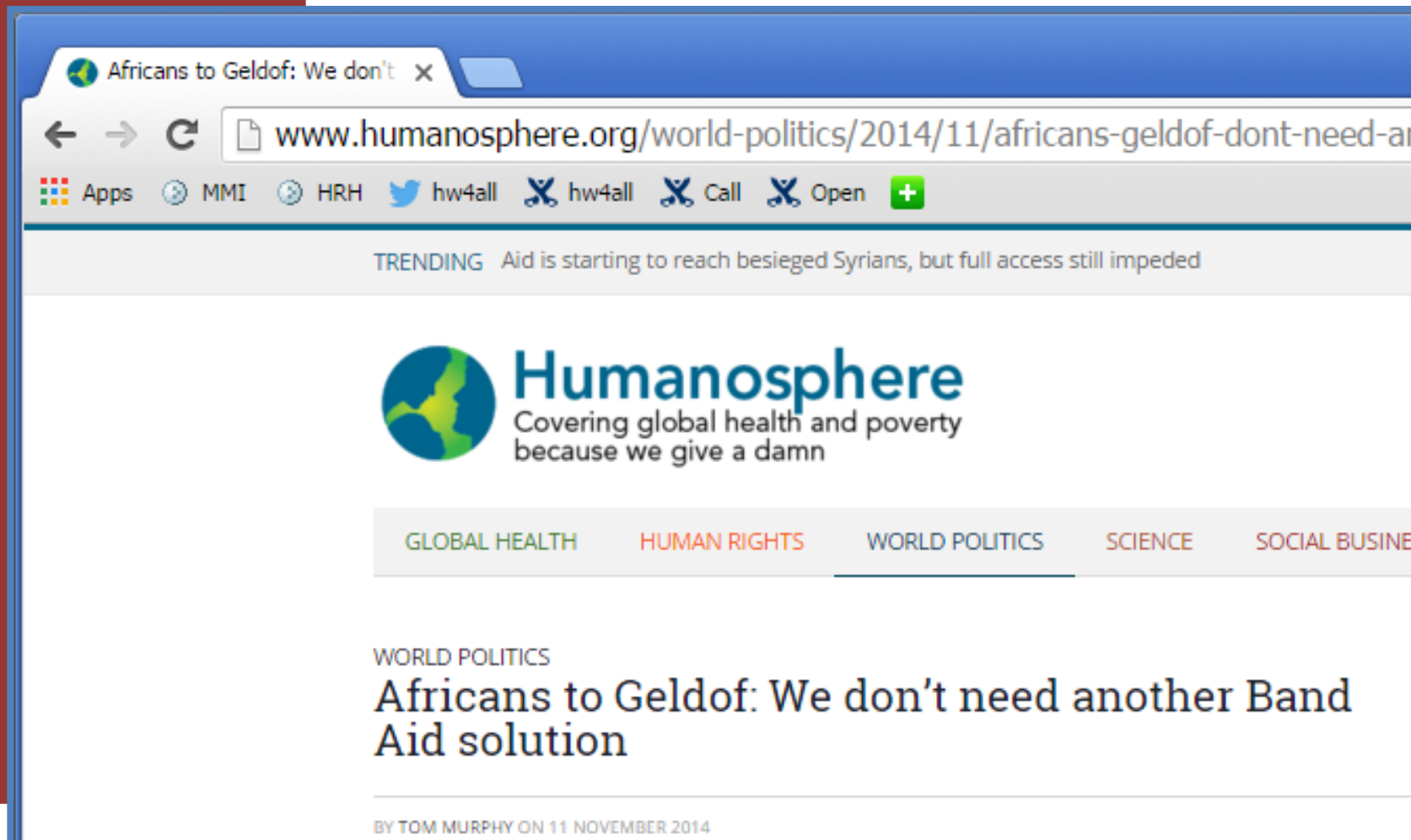
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Yes, I agree

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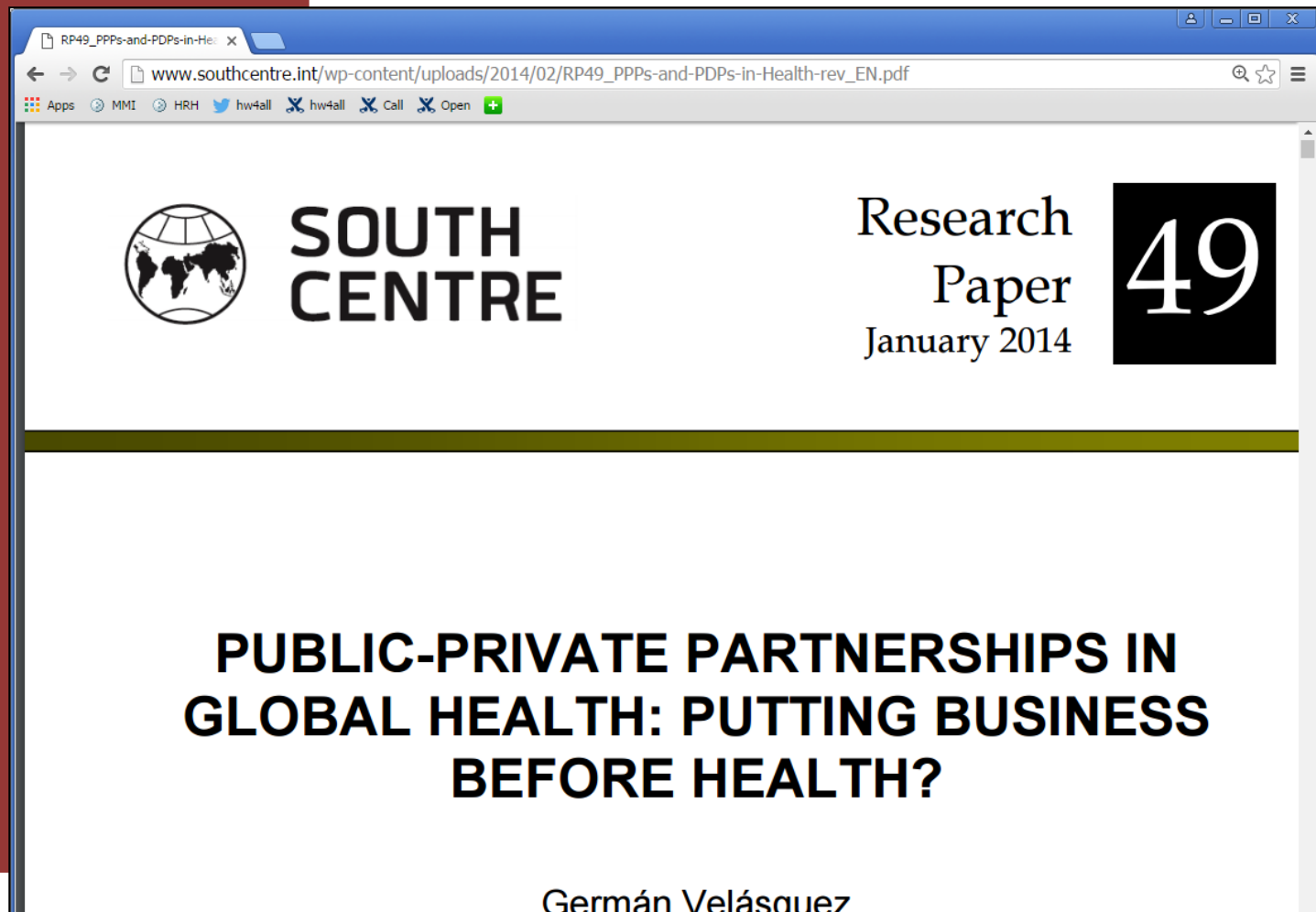




## 2. Anything wrong with development cooperation?



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# The Politics of Evidence and Results in International Development

Playing the Game to Change the Rules?



## 2. Anything wrong with development cooperation?

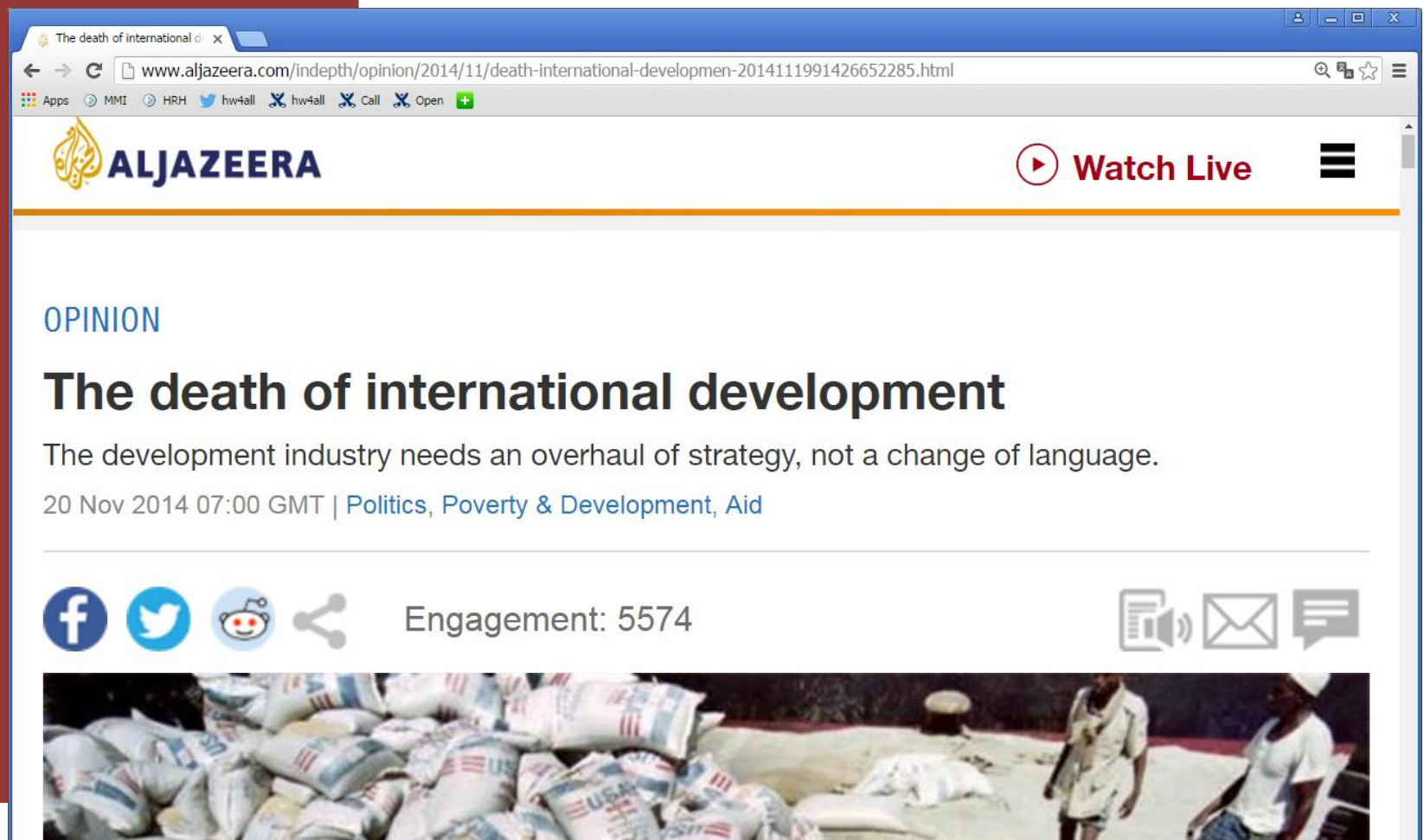
The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying [www.cgdev.org/blog/should-all-vertical-programs-just-lie-down](http://www.cgdev.org/blog/should-all-vertical-programs-just-lie-down). The browser's address bar also shows several extensions: Apps, MMI, HRH, hw4all, hw4all, Call, and Open. The website's header includes navigation links: In Europe, For US Policymakers, Educators, Press, About, Impact, and Contribute. The Center for Global Development logo is visible, along with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, RSS, and YouTube. The tagline "Ideas to Action: Independent research for global prosperity" is displayed. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: Topics, Initiatives, Working Groups, Publications, Blogs, Experts, Events, and a yellow button labeled GET UPDATES. The main content area features a profile picture of Ruth Levine, the author, and the title "Should All Vertical Programs Just Lie Down?". The post is dated 10/5/07 and is from the Global Health Policy Blog. It is categorized under Donor Community, HIV/AIDS and other Infectious Diseases, PEPFAR, Global Fund, World Bank, HIV/AIDS & Infectious Diseases. Below the title is a "Leave a comment" link. The post's social media sharing options are shown: Tweet, Like, G+, Share, and Print. The main text of the post begins with: "Vertical" health programs are once again unfashionable, subject to a blistering set of critiques from all manner of experts - some of whom were instrumental, just a few short years ago, in promoting them. The most recent summary of the accusations that vertical programs destroy "health systems" can be found in the pages of the *Financial Times*, where Andrew Jack does an admirable job of rounding up the usual suspects and letting them get in their sound bytes; previous versions of the case against verticality have been made eloquently and passionately by Laurie Garrett and Roger.

CGD blog posts reflect the views of the authors drawing on prior research and experience in their areas of expertise. CGD does not take institutional positions.

## 2. Anything wrong with development cooperation?



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The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying an Al Jazeera article. The browser's address bar shows the URL: [www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2014/11/death-international-developmen-2014111991426652285.html](http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2014/11/death-international-developmen-2014111991426652285.html). The Al Jazeera logo is visible in the top left, and a 'Watch Live' button is in the top right. The article is categorized under 'OPINION' and has the title 'The death of international development'. The subtitle reads: 'The development industry needs an overhaul of strategy, not a change of language.' The article was published on '20 Nov 2014 07:00 GMT' and is tagged with 'Politics, Poverty & Development, Aid'. Below the text, there are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Reddit, along with a share icon. The engagement count is '5574'. At the bottom, there is a photograph showing a large pile of white sacks, likely containing food aid, with two people standing nearby.

The death of international development

OPINION

**The death of international development**

The development industry needs an overhaul of strategy, not a change of language.

20 Nov 2014 07:00 GMT | Politics, Poverty & Development, Aid

Engagement: 5574

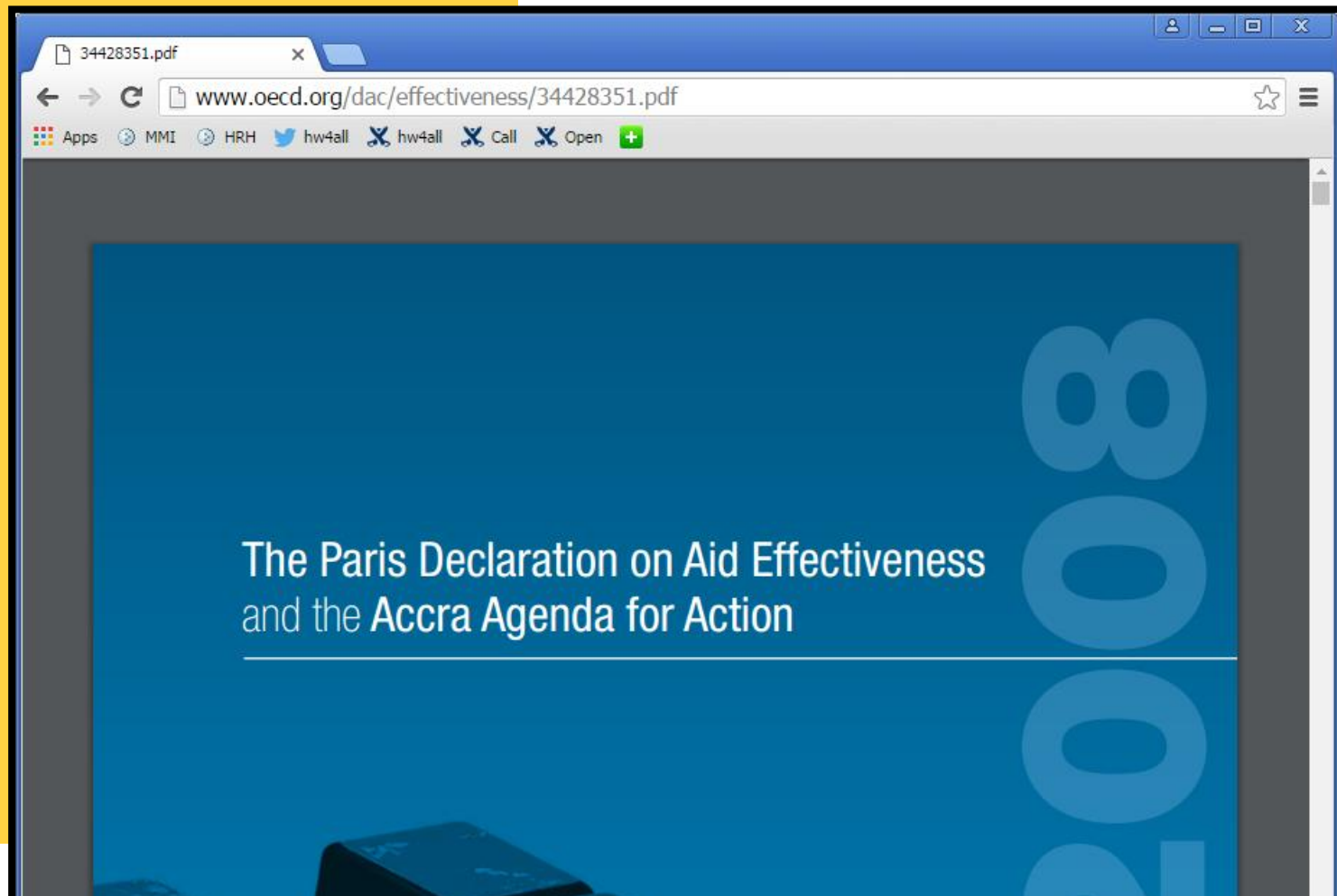




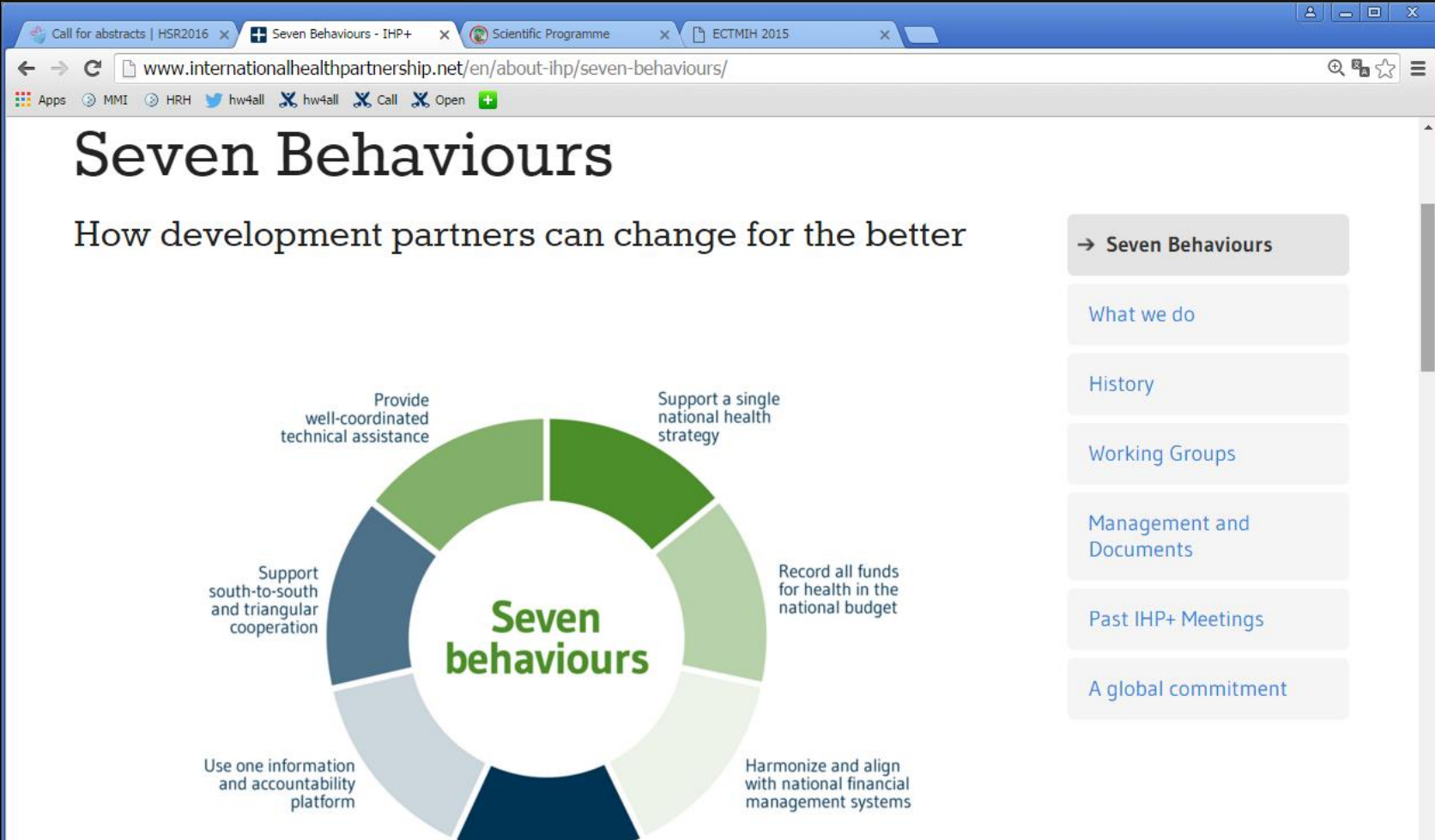
## Questions for reflection

- How do you handle the dilemma between doing “the right things” and your institution’s economic sustainability? Is there a “business” and “marketing” approach in your definition of policies and programs?
- Who “owns” your institution and its programs in international health cooperation? Who defines your institution’s policies and approaches? To whom is your institution accountable?
- Would you call yourself a “learning organization”? If yes, what are your instruments and structures, and who is in charge of your institutional learning?

### 3. Effective health cooperation



### 3. Effective health cooperation



Call for abstracts | HSR2016 x Seven Behaviours - IHP+ x Scientific Programme x ECTMIH 2015 x

www.internationalhealthpartnership.net/en/about-ihp/seven-behaviours/

## Seven Behaviours

How development partners can change for the better

- Seven Behaviours
- What we do
- History
- Working Groups
- Management and Documents
- Past IHP+ Meetings
- A global commitment

**Seven behaviours**

- Support a single national health strategy
- Record all funds for health in the national budget
- Harmonize and align with national financial management systems
- Use one information and accountability platform
- Support south-to-south and triangular cooperation
- Provide well-coordinated technical assistance
- Support a single national health strategy



# UHC2030 is the global movement to build stronger health systems for universal health coverage

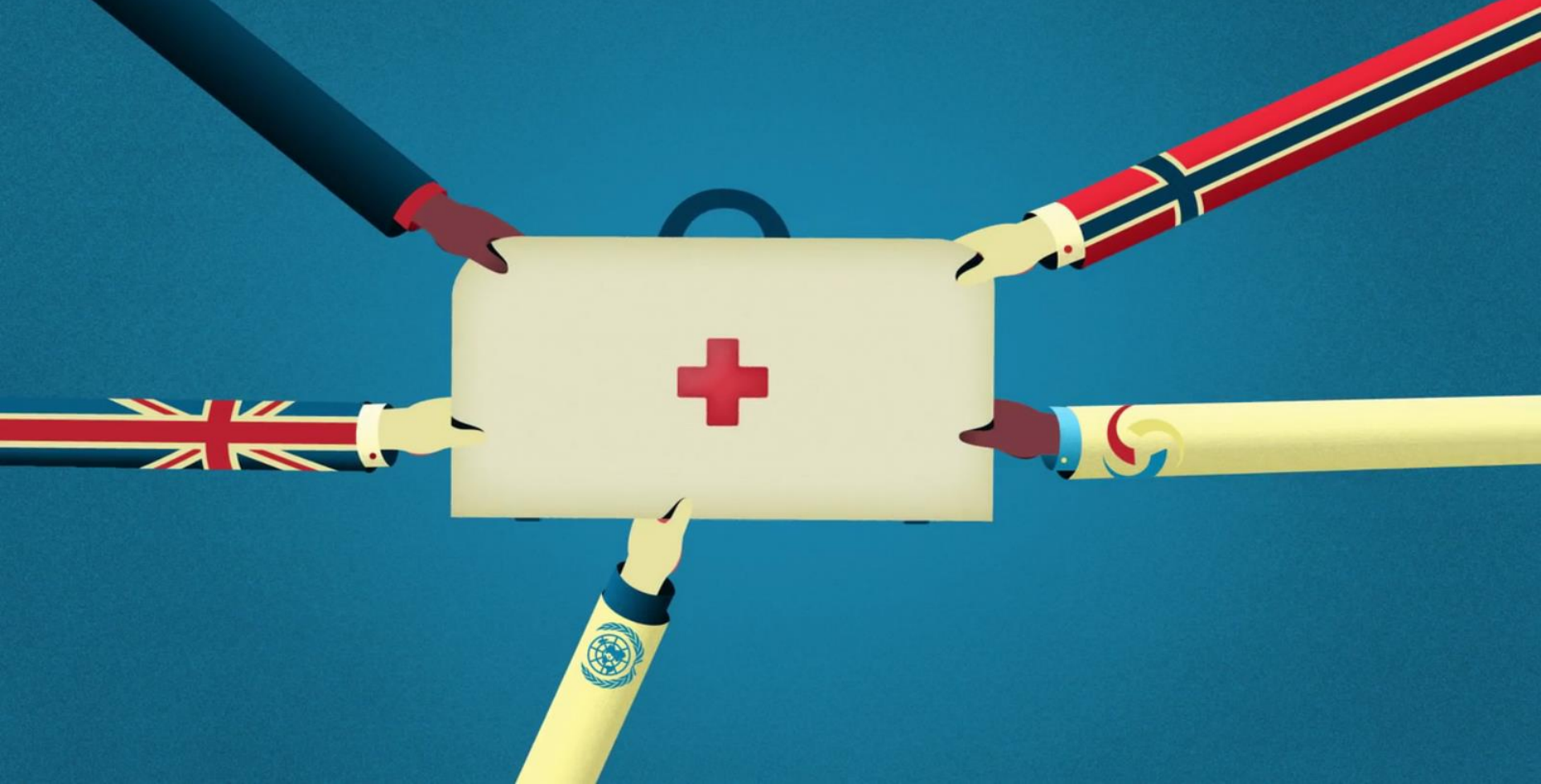
UHC2030 provides a multi-stakeholder platform to promote collaborative working in countries and globally on health systems strengthening. We advocate increased political commitment to universal health coverage (UHC) and facilitate accountability and knowledge sharing.

[Find out more >](#)



## Where to go from here?

- **Continue to promote platforms, fora and spaces** where practices, values, concerns, in relation to health development and cooperation can be discussed in an open, transparent way
- **Continue to promote institutional learning and sharing.** Deepen dialogue on particular approaches, strategies and methods promoted by international health cooperation
- **Link discussion of health cooperation with dialogue on broader foreign and global health policy** (Session 2 of the current meeting)



Thank you!

**medicusmundi**  
international network  
*health for all*